

R E M A R K S

Applicant wishes to extend gratitude to the Examiner for the courtesy extended when conducting a telephone interview with regards to the above noted application. As a result of the aforementioned telephone interview, the Examiner requested Applicant reply at the earliest possible time with an amended claim 29. Applicant hereby amends claim 29.

As is evident from amended claim 29, the process of the present invention comprises coating substrates with a polar coating. Applying this coating includes the step of employing a water-free process gas wherein the process gas contains at least one substituted hydrocarbon compound with up to a maximum of 8 carbon atoms, and in addition, 2 to 4 gases of the following: CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> and Ar.

As is evident, it is the process gas that includes two of the four gases. The claim is therefore silent as to whether the final polar coating contains any one or a combination of the aforementioned elements.

Applicant believes therefore that the outstanding grounds for rejection with regards to claim 29 are thus overcome by the proposed claim. Applicant respectfully requests consideration by the Examiner with regards to these matters.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any

questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

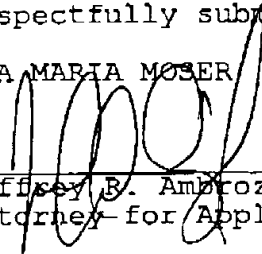
It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

EVA MARIA MOSER

By

  
Jeffrey B. Ambroziak  
Attorney for Applicant

Reg. No. : 47,387  
Area Code: 203  
Telephone: 777-6628  
Telefax : 865-0297

Date: January 22, 2003  
VIA FAX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 29 has been amended as follows:

29. (Twice Amended) Process which comprises[:] coating substrates with a polar coating, wherein the coating takes place by means of plasma polymerization[;], including the step of employing a water-free process gas which contains at least one substituted hydrocarbon compound with up to a maximum of 8 C-atoms and also [an inorganic gas, to produce a coating which is stable in the long term; and including the step of coating a substrate with] 2 to 4 gases of the following: CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> and Ar.